

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070602
ORIGIN AF-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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FROM EASUM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SANU

1. I TELEPHONED SANU TO SAY GOODBYE MARCH 29. WE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED NIGERIAN MEDIATION IN ANGOLA/ZAIRE PROBLEM (SEE SEPTTEL), THE LEHMANN PROBLEM, AND SANU'S FUTURE.

2. LEHMANN CALLED ON SANU MARCH 28 REQUESTING THAT THE FMG "REHABILITATE" HIM IN ORDER THAT HE COULD RESUME HIS NORMAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA. HE ARGUED THAT ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM WERE COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED AND OBSERVED THAT HE HAD BEEN "REPATRIATED" RATHER THAN "DEPORTED". AS WE MIGHT HAVE PREDICTED, SANU HAD LITTLE USEFUL ADVICE FOR LEHMANN OTHER THAN TO SUGGEST THAT THE AMERICAN OR SWEDISH EMBASSIES IN LAGOS WOULD BE THE APPRO-
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PRIATE OFFICES TO OBTAIN THE CLARIFICATION OF HIS STATUS THAT LEHMANN IS SEEKING. MEANWHILE SANU SUGGESTED THAT LEHMANN "LET THINGS COOL DOWN A BIT" BEFORE TRYING TO RETURN TO NIGERIA.

2. SANU ALLEGES TO BE NEITHER SURPRISED NOR UNHAPPY CONCERNING HIS REPLACEMENT IN WASHINGTON BY JOLAOSO. ALTHOUGH

HE HAD IN FACT HOPED AND EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN WASHINGTON
UNTIL LATE THIS YEAR, HE SAID THE MOVE WAS NORMAL AND

REFLECTED ROUTINE PERSONNEL PRACTICE TO RETURN TO DOMESTIC
DUTY THOSE WHO HAD HAD MANY YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE
ABROAD, IN HIS CASE NINE YEARS. HE EXPECTED TO REACH
LAGOS IN JULY AND TO BE ASSIGNED TO MEA. WHEREAS SANU WAS
NONCOMMITAL CONCERNING HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT IN THE MINISTRY,
OBE TOLD ME SEVERAL NIGHTS AGO THAT SANU MIGHT BECOME HEAD
OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION NOW HELD BY AMBASSA-
DOR MUSA.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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